



# ANGLICAN INTER-FAITH COMMISSION (AIFC) REPORT TO THE ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

## INTRODUCTION

At Lambeth Conference 2022, the Bishops whilst affirming “our commitment to witnessing to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour by faithful, Christ-like service and in humble proclamation of this good news among people of different faiths and beliefs” also affirm that “how we work with other religious traditions for the common good testifies to our participation in the gracious work of God”, with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the pressing challenge of climate change being mentioned as examples. The just concluded International Anti-Human Trafficking Consultation organised by the USPG and hosted by the Province of Tanzania in Dar Es Salaam, has called for a collaborative effort in bringing an end to human trafficking as there can be no effective solution to horrendous evil without us working hand-in-hand with people of all faiths persuasions and none.

## THE ANGLICAN INTER FAITH COMMISSION (AIFC)

For information of new members of the ACC, the AIFC was formed at the behest of the Primates Meeting held in Canterbury in 2016 and approved by ACC 2016 in Lusaka (Resolution 16.10) before being officially launched in Canterbury in October 2017. The inaugural meeting was in February 2018 in Cairo, hosted and chaired by The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Anis. Following that, the Commission met in Tunis, Tunisia (2018) and Colombo, Sri Lanka (February 2020 ), before Covid19 pandemic hit and forced the following meetings to be held Online. A REPORT was submitted by the new Chair, Bishop Danald Jute to the Primates Meeting held in November 2021.

At this ACC, it seems appropriate that we should highlight some points of THE CALLS made at Lambeth Conference. These include:

1. All of us who are disciples of Christ, to witness to our neighbours of other religious traditions in humility, in word and deed, and through humble service.
2. Bishops across the Anglican Communion to forge a new friendship with a leader of another religious tradition, modelling our commitment to peace-making and the common good.

3. Invite leaders of other faith communities, to join with us in exploring how we can enable more effective collaborative work on tackling climate change and other challenges to our shared environment, alleviating poverty and care for the vulnerable (including ending Human Trafficking).
4. For AIFC to find funding for research by practitioners (both clergy or lay) from across the Anglican Communion within a specialist track of inter faith relations with a view to resourcing a new generation of Anglican scholar-practitioners so that the good of theological learning about other religious traditions can be affirmed and fostered in the mission of the wider Communion.

## ROLE AND WORK OF THE AIFC

Archbishop Justin Welby, at the inaugural meeting of the AIFC described its role as being “essential to our future” because “the world is looking for the capacity of religious leaders to differ without hating. And the world’s capacity to differ without hating appears to be reducing by the day...” The AIFC will promote and encourage:

1. Provinces and dioceses to evaluate their relationships with other faith communities; identify ways to build and strengthen these relationships.
2. Follow-up in practical ways outcomes of the call to a new friendship across faiths.
3. Develop and disseminate resources that can help Anglicans in local communities to understand other faiths better e.g. by providing a short book/booklet on ‘Engagement with other Faith Communities (in the Anglican Communion), drawing on the experience and expertise from across the Communion.
4. The curricula for courses, theological colleges and seminaries to include the study of and engagement with other faith traditions.
5. Interactive forum to enable communication across the Communion, to facilitate wide-spread awareness of existing and emerging issues.
6. Stand in solidarity with and be the voice of the marginalised and the voiceless, including victims of human trafficking, of all faiths and none.

## Resolutions:

### ACC18

1. Encourages Churches to appoint someone to lead networks in each Region, Province and Diocese for inter-faith engagements; and to develop projects that will enable people from different faith communities to work together for the common good.
2. Encourages Churches to contribute to a fund to enable young(er) Anglicans, ordained and lay, to experience placements in contexts where they could gain experience of inter-faith work together, with theological resourcing.

Report by

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Chairman, Anglican Inter-Faith Commission

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